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UM tops \$6-million campaign goal

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University of Montana

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MEDIA RELEASE

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UM TOPS \$6-MILLION CAMPAIGN GOAL

Missoula --

The University of Montana Campaign, a three-year \$6-million capital fund-raising effort by the UM Foundation, has exceeded its goal with 10 months still to go. The announcement was made Wednesday by UM President Neil S. Bucklew at a news conference on the UM campus.

Bucklew also announced that two other fund-raising goals appeared headed for success. Annual giving with a goal of \$2.1 million reached \$1.58 million on the first of the year, and fund-raising for the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana has raised \$2.44 million toward a goal of \$2.5 million.

Bucklew emphasized that the UM Campaign would continue until Dec. 31. as originally planned.

"Even though we have exceeded the overall goal of the Campaign, important needs within the Campaign have not been met," Bucklew said. He singled out UM's archives and special collections, the university's efforts to expand its service to the state and region through broadcasting, the new stadium, and such "centers of excellence" as the Montana Repertory Theatre, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research and the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Together these areas have unmet needs totaling \$1,427,666.

"The reason we exceeded our overall goal," Bucklew said, "has been the

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Campaign goal -- add one overwhelming support for things that lie at the very heart of the university: professorships and merit scholarships."

As a result of the Campaign, six professorships have been partially endowed: These include the Champion Professorship in forestry, established by a gift from Champion International Corp.; the Bierman professorship in freshwater ecology, to be based at the Flathead Lake Biological Station; chairs in modern Asian affairs and ethics and public affairs, based in the Mansfield Center; a chair in wildlife biology, established with a gift from the Boone and Crockett Club; and a professorship in business, established by an anonymous donor.

Bucklew also said that \$682,491 has been raised for talent-based scholarships.

"The University has an excellent program of need-based financial aid, but these new funds will let us reward talent and better serve Montana's most promising young people," Bucklew said.

In the closing months of the Campaign, volunteer and staff workers will be contacting alumni and friends of the University both within Montana and throughout the nation.

"Our success so far does not mean the Campaign is over. I'm confident that supporters of the University will realize that our remaining needs are, if anything, more pressing, and they will continue to support the UM Campaign with the same understanding and generosity they've demonstrated to this point," Bucklew said.

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